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Sep 10, 1958

FROM: Bob Gilluly
Sports Information
Montana University
Missoula, Montana

"Just like spring baseball training--the defense is way ahead of the offense," was Montana University head football coach Ray Jenkins' estimation of the first full-scale Grizzly scrimmage of the season.

"Our offensive plays, run by the first two teams, showed a definite lack of polish and timing. Even though the two teams made some long-gainers and scored one TD in the hour-long session, I'm far from satisfied," Jenkins said.

He qualified his dissatisfaction by explaining that the offense was not the whole Grizzly repertory--just several basic running and pass patterns. "The defense had a good idea where the plays were going."

"Check blocks--where linemen make momentary contact with a defensive man and then hustle downfield--were our biggest problems. We opened good holes, but check blocks on linebackers and outside men just didn't work," the mentor commented.

The scrimmage also showed that several squad members have been neglecting their homework by not learning their plays.

"I was pleased with the hustle shown by the whole squad. Defensive tackling was superb, and our trap plays and double-team blocking worked well."

Longest gains of the afternoon were a 25-yard TD dash around left end by veteran halfback Jerry Connors, and a 30-yard pass play to transfer end John Lands. Lands was stopped on the two-yard line, and the defense held.

Despite the sputtering attack in scrimmage, Jenkins said he will stress defensive work in drills this week.

"We've only got about 10 days of practice until the Utah game, and it's time we started worrying about what the Utes will throw at us."

Two new first teams were selected early in the week. The squads include:

First team--Tom Sorenson, right end; John Gregor, right tackle; Stan Renning,

right guard; Bob Nearents, center; Montana Bockman, left guard; Charley Moore, left tackle; Lands, left end; Phil Griffin, quarterback; Bob Everson, left halfback; Matt Gorsich, right halfback, and Jim Neal, fullback. First team alternates will be guard Mike Emerson, halfback Howard Johnson, and center Mick O'Brien.

Second team--Les Vierra, right end; Jim (Wyatt) Earp, right tackle; Carl Strand, right guard; Gene Jessup, center; Dale Sparber, left guard; Al Pelayo, left tackle; Pete Muri, left end; Bruce Olson, quarterback; Russ Grant, left halfback; Connors, right halfback; and Dean Swenson, fullback. Second team alternates will be tackle Tom Kane and halfback Larry Myers.

Jenkins explained that the latest listing does not necessarily mean that these men will be starters or top replacements in the Utah opener on September 20.

"The coaching staff picked the first two teams mainly to get an idea what these men can do, working as units. There is some obvious talent on the third and fourth strings that have a chance to move up."

Next full-scale scrimmage is slated Saturday, Sept. 13. Jenkins commented that it may be a night affair, since high school teams will play on Dornblaser Field Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

"This week's scrimmage will go a long way toward determining who will start against Utah," he said.

Commenting briefly on the Utah game, Jenkins placed little faith in the report from the Ute camp that All-America quarterback Lee Grosscup, who broke a rib last week, will not play against the Montanans.

"A broken rib is about like a sore throat these days--it can mend inside of a week. We will expect Grosscup to be in the starting lineup when we meet Utah."

The Grizzlies themselves have been beset by minor injuries, but none more than were expected after the tough scrimmage.

Expected to return to practice by mid-week were fullback Joe Pepe, sprained knee; halfback Howard Johnson, bone chip; tackle Don Dupuis, sprained ankle; center Mick O'Brien, bruised heel; fullback Jerry Young, strained back; end Dale Berry, infected leg, and halfback Larry Myers, pulled muscle.

Tackle Tom Kane may be out for a week with a severe knee sprain.